



## EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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For Immediate Release

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### U.S. Ambassador North Presents Credentials



Governor General Grand Chief Sir Michael Ogio and Ambassador North at the Credentials Ceremony on December 4, 2012 accompanied by representatives from the Government House and the U.S. Embassy

**Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea:** At 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 4, Walter North presented his credentials to the Governor General of Papua New Guinea, Grand Chief Sir Michael Ogio at the Government House in Konedobu. Following the ceremony, Ambassador North officially became the thirteenth United States Ambassador to the Independent State of Papua New Guinea.

The ceremony began with an honor guard at the Government House, Konedobu. Governor Ogio warmly welcomed Ambassador North and expressed his sincere assurances of their continued bilateral partnership. Ambassador North highlighted the close, historic bonds between the people of Papua New Guinea and the United States and underscored the U.S. commitment to partnering with Papua New Guinea to achieve sustainable, inclusive, and transparent growth for its citizens and succeeding generations.

Ambassador North arrived to Papua New Guinea on November 18, following his September 20 confirmation by the United States Senate and his swearing-in as Ambassador to Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, and the Solomon Islands on November 7.

Testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on September 12, Ambassador North said he plans to “work closely with Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu to build on our existing cooperative efforts and to explore new critical areas of partnership.”

Prior to his nomination as Ambassador to Papua New Guinea, Ambassador North served as the Mission Director of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Egypt. He also served as the mission director in India, Indonesia and Zambia. Other overseas postings include Ethiopia and Bangladesh.

Ambassador North held a number of positions at USAID's Washington headquarters including as assistant administrator for the Bureau for Africa, senior deputy assistant administrator for the Bureau for Asia and the Near East, and senior deputy assistant administrator for the Bureau for Policy and Program Coordination, which included responsibility for the Agency's budget. He has also served with the Offices of East Asian Affairs and East African Affairs.

Ambassador North has a master's in public administration from Harvard University and a law degree from the George Washington University. He did his undergraduate studies at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin.

The United States Embassy will host a press roundtable featuring Ambassador North on Wednesday, December 5 at 11:00 a.m. at the United States Embassy in Port Moresby. Print, radio, and electronic media representatives are invited to attend. To register your attendance, please contact Natasha Bodger at [BodgerNE@state.gov](mailto:BodgerNE@state.gov) or by phone at 321-1455.

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